



## *Neighbors Abroad Annual Holiday Party*

*Saturday Dec. 8 from 4 to 7 pm*

(address in Atherton will be given once RSVP is received)

***Delicious Food:*** representing our **Sister Cities**

***Entertainment:*** Students from the New Mozart School who participated in the Heidelberg Sister City Youth Orchestra

***Donation:*** \$25.00 per person

All proceeds to go to our  
**Neighbors Abroad Children's Projects.**

**Reservations required in advance.**

**Mail checks payable to Neighbors Abroad  
and mail to Ruth Carleton**

**36 Pearce Mitchell Pl.**

**Stanford, CA 94305.**

**Phone 650-324-3635**



*Oaxaca Sister City Committee breakfast for Palo Alto visitors and program heads*

Celebration  
of  
Twenty-five  
Years of  
Loving  
Care  
at  
Albergue  
Infantil  
Josefino  
Orphanage  
in  
Oaxaca



*Albergue resident hands out favors at the celebration*

The following article was published  
in the *El Imparcial* newspaper  
(translated from the Spanish original)

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Josefino Children's Shelter, a group of friends from Palo Alto CA visited this City of Oaxaca; they are Mayor Lis Kniss, Neighbors Abroad President Bob Wenzlau, Marion Mandel Vice-President for Oaxaca, Henry and Jenny Heubach, members of Neighbors Abroad. They were received with pleasure and with a delicious breakfast offered by the Committee of Sister Cities Oaxaca Palo Alto AC, where the people in charge of the different programs were present, such as: The Fire Brigade, the Calpulli Community Center, the Crecemos Center Said AC, The Josefino Children's Hostel and the Student Exchange Program. It is this program represented by students that has most managed to strengthen the friendship between both cities. The Mayor of Palo Alto exchanged experiences with Mr. José Antonio Hernández Fraguas, Municipal President; with the intention of continuing to help our city.

José Ortega y Gasset, just before the 2nd World War stated: «The enormous effort that war is can only be avoided if peace is understood as an even greater effort... If war is a thing that is done, peace also is a thing that must be done.»

There is no better way to make peace than the person-to-person relationship. That is how many Oaxacans have fostered peace beyond a geographical space and within the framework of universal values such as solidarity, friendship, tolerance and respect.



*Albergue children on the plaza in front of Santo Domingo after the Anniversary mass.*

## OAXACA

What a treat it was to visit Oaxaca in October for the 25th anniversary of the Albergue Infantil Josefino, the terrific orphanage which both Neighbors Abroad in Palo Alto and the Comité in Oaxaca work to support, along with the wonderful caregivers who are so great at caring for the almost fifty multi-aged children. What a pleasure to see such happy, healthy girls and boys! (They even seemed happy when doing their homework!) The facility is in wonderful shape, so well organized and orderly—and not just because we were visiting.) In the 25 years it has existed there have been great additions and renovations.

Part of the 25th year celebration included a mass in the lovely Santo Domingo Church, a large luncheon and Guelaguetza program in a huge gymnasium-like facility and of course tours of the Orphanage itself. (I must say that I have always been VERY impressed with how neatly the children keep their rooms and belongings, to say nothing of how courteous and pleasant they are—even to a crowd of adults they do not even know!)

It is great to observe how well they have done and are continuing to do. We are so pleased to see that the funds we raise here in Palo Alto for the use of the Albergue are indeed put to good and careful use.

On another subject, it may be November now, but we are already thinking about the summer 2019 student exchange to Oaxaca. The first Family Information Meeting for students and parents took place on Tuesday, November 13 (which is before you will receive this newsletter) and we are hoping for good attendance. If you know students who will be at least 15 years old by June 2019 and studying Spanish at any level, please tell them to contact me even though it is after the meeting.

Remember to contact Ruth Carleton about the annual Holiday Party at the lovely Hardesty home in Atherton. It will take place on December 8. There will be food representing all of our eight Sister Cities and musical entertainment.

We still have ready-packed suitcases of clothing and shoes for the children of the orphanage which we like to send with travelers to Oaxaca. Contact me at 650-493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net if you or someone you know is traveling that way.

And remember that this is the time to donate to our annual Childrens Projects appeal, which helps support our Neighbors Abroad projects in Oaxaca and Palo, in the Philippines.

**Hasta luego**  
*Marion Mandell*



*Palo Alto visitors and Oaxaca Committee members in the Oaxaca city council chambers*



*Marion, Liz and Bob with Oaxaca sister city committee members and Palo Alto flag.*



*Vice President for Oaxaca Marion Mandell, Palo Alto Mayor Liz Kniss, and Neighbors Abroad President Bob Wenzlau with the Orphanage Madres.*

# LINKÖPING

## Filadelfia Brass Band from Linköping 2020 Tour

Jan Byrmo and his wife and daughter visited us in Palo Alto on Monday, November 22 as part of a family vacation trip. Jan is a member of the Filadelfia Brass and Concert Band from Linköping that was formed in 1960. In 2005 he was director of the band tour which traveled to Australia and New Zealand. He hopes to bring the band to Palo Alto for several concerts in the spring of 2020.

The Filadelfia Band has adopted the style and many of the marches from the Salvation Army, which has served as a model for them. They also play a number of popular pieces. And some of the male members of the band sing as a chorus.

A large group will be traveling with the band, so they will not be expecting home stays but are hoping that Neighbors Abroad can find venues for their local concerts. Of course it will certainly be an excuse for a great Neighbors Abroad party!

*Barbara Evans*



*At right,  
Professor Michael  
Saunders greets  
President Xi of  
China in  
Mandarin Chinese.*

## Learning a World Language Opens Many Doors!

Professor Michael Saunders has found the study of world languages to be a vital part of his international travels as Stanford Professor, Department of Management Science and Engineering. Michael studied Spanish for ten years with Palo Alto Adult School instructor, Leo McCord Salazar. More recently, he has been studying Mandarin with Palo Alto Adult School instructor, Lucia Wu. Whether Michael is presenting at an international conference or helping a friend shop in a foreign land, he finds that people he meets along the way “light up” and appreciate his effort at conversing in their native language.

Long after his Adult School Spanish classes, Michael took his first trip to Mexico. He found himself reasonably fluent and was called to action on his day of arrival to help an associate navigate her way through the city. As an international traveler, Michael is happy being able to read street signs and menus and converse with locals. The Adult School language classes have made this possible for him.

Michael finds the Chinese language rather more challenging than Spanish, but well worth the effort. A few years ago, he was asked to come to a company in China on a specific day because a VIP was scheduled to visit. Unaware of the VIP’s identity till that morning, Michael found himself designated as one of the greeters to welcome President Xi. He was taught to say “Xi Zhǔxí, hǎo!” and immediately became motivated to learn more Chinese. In visits to Shanghai, Beijing, Foshan, and other cities, Michael is able to communicate his happiness at meeting others and receiving the warm welcomes given to him. Being able to engage conference attendees and personal acquaintances in their native language has brought Michael many close friendships and new outlooks on life.

*Neighbors Abroad has selected the Palo Alto Adult School as its world language instructional partner. It offers training in Spanish, French, Mandarin, Japanese and German languages. Visit PAAAdultSchool.org this month to see the line-up of Winter 2019 classes!*



## TSUCHIURA

In just a few months we will be greeting the exchange students from Tsuchiura.

We are still finalizing the participants, but the big news is that we had 26 applicants this year!! Because we have only 16 slots, sadly we will have to say no to some of them. But the interest this year is very encouraging. I want to give a special shout out to Naoko Fujii, my new exchange director. Her son participated in the exchange last year and she is passionate about the program. Her hard work in advertising the exchange definitely made a big difference this year.

On another note, 2019 is the tenth anniversary of our sister-city affiliation with Tsuchiura. On the fifth anniversary we celebrated here in Palo Alto with both officials and a dance troop attending. I hope we can celebrate the tenth anniversary in Tsuchiura. I would like to gather a delegation of 5 to 10 people to travel to Tsuchiura for the celebration, a home stay and perhaps some sight-seeing. If we can arrange the visit for September we could be there for the famous fireworks competition.

### *Jennifer Buenrostro*

For questions or to express interest, contact me at [jbuenrostro@comcast.net](mailto:jbuenrostro@comcast.net)

## PALO



*Recent picture received just before press deadline of the preparations to begin construction on the new Children's Library building in Palo.*

## YANGPU

### Shanghai Yangpu Update

Since the September Palo Alto City officials' and Neighbors Abroad leadership team visit to Shanghai Yangpu, our Yangpu program team has started working with the Yangpu District Education Department International Exchange lead Ms. Zhu and Foreign Affairs lead Paulin as well as BAC China lead Jennifer, planning for the upcoming activities between the two cities in 2019.

As the newest addition to our sister cities, Yangpu has been invited to participate in our 2019 March BEAM conference, open to all sister cities. Yangpu Education Exchange team will look into their budget.

Yangpu education exchange is evaluating school to school relationship first as part of their process, potentially Paly with the high school affiliated to Fudan University (Exeter Phillips Academy sister school) and Gunn with high school affiliated to Tong Ji University (the school Palo Alto team visited in September). Yangpu is open to look into Palo Alto Education Online Investment Competition program and BEAM program AFTER the sister schools relationships are set up and approved by the Yangpu city government. They hope to bring a vice mayor of education next March to Palo Alto to seal this deal. March 5th, 2019 will mark the one year anniversary of Yangpu-Palo Alto sister relationship agreement. A proposal is in place for a ceremony putting the Yangpu plate onto the sister city kiosk in March during their visit.

On the student exchange front, we are looking to finalize the arrangement of a half-day in Yangpu during Ohlone Alum's April 2019 China trip as well as Bay Area High School Student's Robotics/AI June trip to China. Palo Alto mom, former Chinese language teacher and FaceBook China team who is leading the Paly and Bay Area China trip has joined our Yangpu program team. Another new member of the program team is working with China local schools/students as well as private funding to support the ongoing exchange program needs.

### **Stay tuned,**

*Bing Wei and Ling Wu Feng*

# el chisme

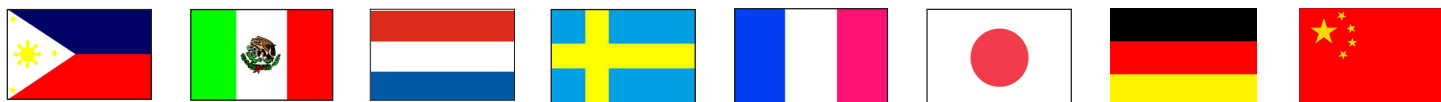


Neighbors Abroad  
P. O. Box 52004  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
U.S.A.

NEIGHBORS ABROAD is a volunteer organization which maintains and carries out the activities of the City of Palo Alto's officially recognized Sister City Program with Palo Alto in the province of Leyte in the Philippines, Oaxaca in Mexico, Enschede in the Netherlands, Linköping in Sweden, Albi in France, Tsuchiura in Japan, Heidelberg in Germany, and Yangpu in China. Its activities have served and continue to serve the community interests of international and intercultural understanding.

Bob Wenzlau, President 248-4467  
Jim Newton, Treasurer 854-4360  
Newsletter Editor TBA

<http://neighborsabroad.org>



## Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

**Dec. 8, Saturday**, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Neighbors Abroad Holiday Party to benefit the Children's Programs. See cover

**2018 Christmas Creche Exhibit**  
**"Joy Unto All People"**  
*350 nativity scenes from around the world*

**December 1-5, Saturday-Wednesday,**  
**noon-9:00 p.m. daily,**  
**3865 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto;**

**live music daily with**  
**special concerts in the evening,**  
**more details at [christmascreche.org](http://christmascreche.org).**

**Next El Chisme Deadline TBA**